

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 /090 W

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FM USMISISION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 178

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PO

SUBJECT: EC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL

REF: A. STATE 276188 B. STATE 274670 C. STATE 275169

D. STATE 274569 E. EC BRUSSELS 9502. F. STATE 276695

1. SUMMARY. MISSION OFFICERS INFORMED DE DERGORLAY AT EC COMMISSION OF OUR HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SPECIFIC ACTIONS IT MIGHT TAKE TO ASSIST THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. DE KERGORLAY AGREED WITH THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL A, MISSION OFFICERS URGED EARLY DECLARATION BY COMMUNITY OF ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL IN MEETING WITH DE DERGORLAY, EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, ON DECEMBER 19. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SENT HIM THE TEXT OF THE JOINT US-PORTUGUESE STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 13 (REFTELS B AND C). IN
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EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO WESTERN SUPPORT

THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY WE DREW ON PARA 2, REFTEL D, POINTING OUT THAT LACK OF WESTERN ECONOMIC AND MORAL SUPPORT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING TO MODERATE DEMOCRATIC AND NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND COULD LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN PORTUGUESE FOREIGN POLICY. MISSION OFFICERS NOTED THAT EC VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES WOULD BE GOING TO LISBON IN JANUARY (REFTEL E) AND WE SUGGESTED THAT SOAMES'S VISIT MIGHT PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR A POSITIVE STATEMENT BY THE EC WHICH WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM PUBLIC IMPACT.

3. DE KERGORLAY AGREED COMPLETELY THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS SPECIFICALLY OFFERING ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL WOULD BE USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE MARCH ELECTIONS. HE FURTHER AGREED THAT SOAMES'S VISIT WOULD BE THE RIGHT OCCASION FOR A SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT. THE ONLY PROBLEM DE KERGORLAY SAW WAS IN MOVING THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PORTUGUESE FORWARD FAST ENOUGH TO PERMIT SOAMES TO HAVE ANYTHING REALLY MEANINGFUL TO ANNOUNCE. HE SAID THE PORTUGUESE-EC TASK FORCE WAS MEETING DECEMBER 19 AND 20, BUT IT WAS LIMITED TO MEASURES TO BENEFIT PORTUGUESE WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE PORTUGUESE WERE STILL THIN ON CONCRETE REQUESTS. NONEHELESS, HE BELIEVED ENOUGH PROGRESS WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY JANUARY FOR SOAMES TO MAKE A HELPFUL STATEMENT.

4. DE KERGORLAY ADDED THAT IF THE PRESENT EC-PORTUGUESE SCENARIO HOLDS, THERE WILL BE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE EC-PORTUGUESE MIXED COMMITTEE BEFORE THE ELECTION. HE ANTICIPATED THAT A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC EC MEASURES COULD BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THAT MEETING.

5. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT EFTA WAS ALSO ASSESSING WAYS TO ASSIST PORTUGAL AND SAID THAT THE EFTA SECRETARY GENERAL PLANNED TO VISIT LISBON IN JANUARY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OCCASION FOR A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. WHILE IT HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED THAT WAY, HE SAID IT LOOKED AS IF THE SCHEDULE BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH WOULD PROVIDE A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS FOR THE WEST TO MAKE HELPFUL DECLARATION.

6. WE ALSO INFORMED DE KERGORLAY OF OUR PLANNED APPROACH IN THE OECD (REFTEL F). GREENWALD
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